



## LUKE CHAPTER 1 (FACILITATOR)

### □ Overview of Luke

- Author:
  - Although the Gospel of Luke never explicitly states that Luke is the author, Christian tradition and many scholars support his authorship being fact.
- Importance of Luke's Gospel:
  - Luke's Gospel is more detailed than any of the other Gospels (Matthew, Mark, & John) and it is in fact the longest book of the New Testament, so it does include a great deal of content. We know from Luke 1:3 that the writer did extensive research and investigation to present this account of Jesus, life, ministry, death, and resurrection.
  - The theme verse of Luke is Luke 19:10 and the entire book demonstrates that Jesus came to seek and save the lost. While every Gospel demonstrates this about Jesus, Luke's Gospel does this by intentionally focusing on Jesus' interactions with individuals on the fringes and edges of society, the outcasts, those that don't quite "fit in" with the rest of society and/or societal norms.
  - Luke's portrayal of Jesus helps the reader to understand that Jesus' heart, love, and compassion is for all, regardless of their status, position, or role.
  - Whereas Matthew's Gospel depicts Jesus as king, Mark's Gospel describes Jesus as servant, and John's Gospel shows Jesus as God, Luke's Gospel displays Jesus as "Son of Man," one of Jesus' favorite titles for Himself. He is a lover of humanity and one hundred percent fully God and fully human when He walked the face of the earth.

- A simple outline of Luke by Jeffrey Kranz can be found below.
  - Jesus' humble origins (Lk 1–3)
  - Jesus brings hope to the oppressed and challenges those in power (Lk 4–9:17)
  - Jesus teaches how His kingdom is different than the world (Lk 9:18–19:27)
  - Jesus is killed, practicing what He preached (Lk 19:28–23:56)
  - Jesus rises from the dead, validating His claims (Lk 24)

### **Discussion Starter**

- What is one amazing thing that has happened to you in the past week? The past month? The past year?
- **Opening Prayer**
  - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

### **Breaking it Down**

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you must get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of, and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.
- Please use your own style, voice, and approach in preparing for leading your life group. Most importantly, take a few minutes to pray over the time together with you group and pray over each group member by name.

### **Tell the Story**

- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

### **Read the Story (Luke 1:1-80)**

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

#### **Luke 1:1-25**

- The first four verses of Luke were originally one sentence in Greek and these first four verses are written in a very academic scholarly language. After this, Luke uses the language of the “common man”, and this is important to note because the Gospel is intended to help people to understand Jesus in a relational way and not just an informational way.
  - Why do you think it is important to seek to know who Jesus is both from an informational and relational perspective? Which is easier for you and why?
    - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
  
- What is most striking to you about how God interacted with Zechariah and Elizabeth through Gabriel regarding the conception and birth announcement of John the Baptist?
  - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

#### **Luke 1:26-56**

- What is most striking to you about how God interacted with Mary regarding the conception and birth announcement of Jesus?
  - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
  
- Notice Mary’s response in verse 38. Why is this significant?
  - Mary probably did not understand exactly how all of what God said to her through the angel was going to come about, especially in and through her own wisdom and intellect. However, she did not choose to trust in her own wisdom and intellect but rather sought to trust in what God had spoken to her.
    - In what ways do you need to stop trying to seek the answers to all that God is asking/telling you to do and just trust that He knows what He’s doing?

- This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

### **Luke 1:57-80**

- Why is it interesting to note that the first words that came out of Zachariah's mouth were words of blessing and praise to God?
  - This is interesting to note because Zachariah could have chosen to be upset, bitter, and resentful towards God for not being able to speak for such a long time. But he chooses to simply praise and honor Him for what He has done.
  - What lessons do you need to learn and practice from Zachariah's example?
    - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

### **Final Application**

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

### **Closing & Prayer Requests**

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time.

Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week. (Luke chapter 2)

## LUKE CHAPTER 1 (STUDENT)

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What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?